



## **APPENDIX 4**

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### **Annotated Exhibits Submitted at the Public Hearings**

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Suffolk County Vector Control & Wetlands Management Long-Term Plan  
Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement Public Hearing  
Suffolk County Legislative Auditorium, Evan K. Griffing Bldg, Riverhead  
Thursday, June 29, 2006 Sign In List

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Romaine	Keith	Mariches Bay Civic Assoc & Leg. Ed Romaine
McAlevy	Bob	VRC, OR CONTINOL CAC
Spates	Georgianne	citizen
SCHWINN	EILEEN	EASTERN LI AUDUBON SOCIETY
Atkinson	Matthew	Peconic Baykeeper
McAllister	Kevin	Peconic Baykeeper
Shaw	Rimbecky	SCDITS
STOCK	TOM	SYNAPSE IN THE CORE
CUSACK	Heather	Southold Town
Maher	Nicole	The Nature Conservancy
Licata	Dominick	Smith Point Beach Property Owner
Ross McKenna	Ronald	Fire Island Pines
DeLuca	Bob	Group for the South Fork
NERRYMAN	LAWRENCE	GREAT SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY + LONG ISLAND AUDUBON CO.
Lombardo	Frank	Smith Point Beach Property owners
DEAN	Robert	Smith Point Beach Property owners
Esposito		

Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	Handcopy	CDROM
Tonjes	David	LA		
Hawkridge	Hauvette	17 Bay Fair Drive Shirley		
Hawridge	William	P.O. Box 300, H. Bay, N.Y.	11746	
McHenry	Robert			
DeLuca	Bob	P.O. Box 569, Bridgehampton NY 11932		
Atkinson	Matthew	PO Box 893 Quogue, NY 11959		
McAliste	Kevin	" " "		
Lombardo	Frank	33 Kent Dr. Smith Point N.Y.	11967	
DeAr	Robert	36 Kent Dr. Smith Point	11967	
Lester	DOM	63 Wm Figgis Pkwy South	P.O. 1196	
Newkirk	Barb	The Nerv Conserancy, 250 Lawrence Hill Rd	Cold Spring Harbor	
McKinn	Ron	P.O. Box 5284 Pine Island Lane N.Y.	11782	
Twanejka	Thomas	Suffolk County DPW		
Sepenoski	John	5600 Huttons Ln Southold NY 11971		
Ludwig	Gerald	2 Robert Avenue, Mastic Beach NY 11951		
Dempsey	Mary	SCDPW		
DEBLAS	PHILIP	DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY		
Voulgarelis	Evelyn	15 East Ave Flanders, 11901		
Spates	Georgeanne "Gigi"	POB 786, Southold 11971		
LAMONT	Mary Laura	717 Sound Shore Rd. Riverhead NY 11901		
SCHWINN	EILEEN	23 Eisenhower Dr, East Quogue, NY 11964	2	
NERRYMAN	LAWRENCE	38 SOUTH CARLL AVE, BABYLON NY 11702		
JACOBS	KASEY	225A Main St, Farmingdale, 11735		
ESPOSITO	ADRIENNE	" " "		

Request for a copy of the DGEIS - Please indicate the preferred format

Page 1 of 2

[illegible]

June 29, 2006

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst  
Department of Planning  
H. Lee Dennison Building  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Mr. Bagg,

Due to a scheduling conflict, I am unable to attend today's Public Hearing on the Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Plan and Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement however, wish to provide the following comments for the record.

The use of chemical pesticides poses a negative health risk to humans as well as the ecology of Long Island. It has been established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that pesticides are not to be considered safe, and the NYS Department of Health also reports that the use of chemical pesticides provides risk to human health. The plan should provide a distinction between nuisance control and disease control, and the spraying of chemical pesticides should only be implemented when there is evidence of disease. The alteration and/or modification to our wetlands for mosquito control should only be exercised when fixing past wetland ditching projects and the restoration of marsh health. I cannot stress enough the importance of heightened public awareness of the adverse affects the use of chemical pesticides impose and the need for educating the public on ways in mosquito control and tolerance.

I have grave concerns that the Open Marsh Water Management (OMWM) plan may have a detrimental impact on the 17,000 acres of salt marsh. The OMWM will suddenly change the marsh's hydrology with the digging of several ponds and the introduction of artificial creeks that could have a negative ecological impact while not substantially reducing the mosquito population. As we know, marshes take centuries of depositional sediments to form. Over time the build up of sand, sediment and dead plants form a unique composition whose nutrients, along with marsh grasses, effectively filter out pollutants. In fact, marshes act like natural sponges, absorbing water from heavy rains and road run-off. Marshes also act as a natural protector if a major storm hits.

The marshes are like the kidneys of the bay. Since the 1930's, Suffolk County has lost 35% of its wetlands in the South Shore Estuary. The OMWM may reduce the wetlands ability to reduce pollutants. Using machines to carve these ponds from the marsh peat means that the marsh won't heal itself for quite sometime. Currently, there is no compelling body of evidence to

suggest that the OMWM technique will restore the marsh, better allow the marsh to absorb pollutants or waters from heavy rains and storms or adequately control the mosquito population. In fact, OMWM may negatively affect many species currently dependent on the marsh.

Accordingly, I would urge you to postpone the acceptance of the DEIS concerning the OMWM. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Romaine  
County Legislator, First District

EPR:lk

# POLL RESULTS - pg 1

26. Level of agreement - Our children are more at risk from mosquitoes and the West Nile virus than they are from pesticide spraying

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Str Agree	134	22.2	22.2	22.2
Smw Agree	123	20.5	20.5	42.7
Smw Disagree	133	22.1	22.1	64.8
Str Disagree	139	23.1	23.1	88.0
NS	72	12.0	12.0	100.0
Total	601	100.0	100.0	

about  
equal  
risk

27. Level of agreement - Eliminating wetlands to control mosquito populations will have long-term consequences that are worse than the current mosquito problem

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Str Agree	308	51.2	51.2	51.2
Smw Agree	122	20.4	20.4	71.6
Smw Disagree	88	11.3	11.3	82.9
Str Disagree	53	8.8	8.8	91.7
NS	50	8.3	8.3	100.0
Total	601	100.0	100.0	

greater than  
3/1 wetlands protection  
above current mosquito  
problem

28. Which do you think poses more of a health risk - ticks or mosquitoes?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Ticks	382	63.6	63.6	63.6
Mosquitos	164	27.4	27.4	90.9
Neither/Other	11	1.9	1.9	92.8
NS	43	7.2	7.2	100.0
Total	601	100.0	100.0	

health risk of  
ticks by greater  
than 2/1

## 35. Who you trust most to give you information about - Mosquito control

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid EPA	155	25.8	25.8	25.8
Local officials	22	3.7	3.7	29.5
Suffolk County cooperative extension	52	8.6	8.6	38.1
News media	138	23.0	23.0	61.1
<u>Suffolk County pest control experts</u>	48	8.0	8.0	69.1
Environmental organizations	51	8.5	8.5	77.7
Personal research	36	5.9	5.9	83.6
The CDC	61	10.2	10.2	93.8
Other	12	2.0	2.0	95.7
NS	26	4.3	4.3	100.0
Total	601	100.0	100.0	

No trust in S.C. Pest Contr.

## 36. Who you trust most to give you information about - Use of pesticides

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid EPA	158	25.9	25.9	25.9
Local officials	28	4.6	4.6	30.5
Suffolk County cooperative extension	56	9.4	9.4	39.9
News media	113	18.7	18.7	58.6
<u>Suffolk County pest control experts</u>	49	8.1	8.1	66.7
Environmental organizations	49	8.1	8.1	74.9
Personal research	54	9.0	9.0	83.9
The CDC	55	9.1	9.1	92.9
Other	13	2.2	2.2	95.1
NS	29	4.9	4.9	100.0
Total	601	100.0	100.0	

# POLL RESULTS — pg 2, a

SCDHS DRAFT 08/10/05

## Agenda Item 3: Poll

The poll began on Saturday, July 16th. When the poll ends, Zogby will tabulate results and finalize the data. Results are expected within 7-10 business days. A reminder was given that the results must be reviewed by SCDHS, DWP, TAC, and the Steering committee.

A handout was given to all CAC members present regarding review guidelines. The TAC and Steering Committee must review and approve of all products.

999  
The poll questions were sent to SCDHS on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. The poll began the next day. Unaware of this, the project team (SCDHS – Ecology, SCDPW – Vector Control, and Cashin Associates) reviewed and edited several questions that were thought to be biased or misleading. There were some additional questions suggested. A summary of the edits, comments, and suggestions was included in the Project Status handout.

Adrienne Esposito said she was not aware that the poll questions needed to be reviewed before the poll began. She explained that the poll was to help CAC to get an idea of public perception to work on a brochure and other products. It was to be an internal information source to help guide CAC.

Adrienne said she was not aware of review by Steering committee. William Doyle and Hank Dam remembered that it was mentioned in previous meetings that the brochure, poll, and other products need to be reviewed by SCDHS (Ecology) and DPW Vector Control, then TAC and Steering Committee. Thomas Williams was not aware that the poll questions needed review, but said that final products must be reviewed by Steering Committee.

Thomas Williams mentioned that there might be enough money left in the budget to do a supplemental survey, or fix the survey according to the project team's edits and additional questions.

John Black said Suffolk County should not have censorship over what the CAC does.

Hank Dam was concerned about getting an unbiased report from the data of the survey. It was stated that Zogby is a professional pollster that will not release a biased report. The results will be reported directly to CAC/Cornell Cooperative Extensive.

Gerald Ludwig suggested that CCE and Thomas Williams hold the results of the poll data until it can be determined what the County's stance is on the poll & questions.

John Black & Bob McAlevy want to see the entire data of the poll. Gerald Ludwig added that until the county can review the data, the results should not be released to the CAC.

From:  
Sent:  
To:

Ninivaggi, Dominick  
Monday, April 24, 2006 9:34 AM

POLL RESULTS - pg 3

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Alden, Cameron; Santenen@tnc.org; Auletta1@sachem.edu; Bagg, James; Binder, Allan;  
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bmahoney@citizenscampaign.org; amieha@optonline.net; TLEM@juno.com  
RE: CAC Meeting - April 24, 2006

Subject:

Regarding tick control, the CAC should be aware that the Arthropod-Borne Disease Lab (ABDL) does surveillance and research on ticks and the diseases they carry. The CAC should also be aware there are no known wide scale methods to control ticks that do not involve the use of pesticides, primarily broad-spectrum materials such as pyrethroids and carbamates. I would caution that initiating a tick control program would certainly be a SEQRA Type I action that would probably involve the preparation of an EIS. Significant funding would have to be identified to establish the feasibility of such a program and to define the impacts. The daunting and costly nature of this task is the primary reason the County has not attempted to initiate a tick control program.

Dominick V. Ninivaggi  
Superintendent  
Division of Vector Control  
Suffolk County DPW  
335 Yaphank Avenue  
Yaphank, NY 11980  
Voice: 631-852-4270  
FAX: 631-852-4140

dominick.ninivaggi@co.suffolk.ny.us

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SCVC response to poll results  
that ticks greater health risk  
than mosquitoes -- no Public  
Health Education, only pesticide spray

July 6, 2006  
N.Y. Times

# More Awareness, More Cases

POLL RESULTS  
POLL RISE  
Pg 4

## Reports of Lyme Disease Rose Last Year as Recognition Grows

By TINA KELLEY

**R**EPORTED cases of Lyme disease in the metropolitan region rose sharply in 2005, according to health officials, with increases of 34 percent in Connecticut, 23 percent in New Jersey and 9 percent in New York State. But some counties showed declines. Westchester had 458 reported cases, a decrease of 39 percent from 2004. On Long Island, Suffolk County, with 542 cases, declined 3 percent, while Nassau County, with 122 cases, had an increase of 107 percent. Fluctuations in case numbers are common, officials said, and the uses are difficult to pinpoint. Connecticut's increase last year, to 1,810 cases, is "right within what we've seen seeing historically for the past years," said Randall Nelson of the infectious disease division of the state Department of Public Health. "There's variation from year to year."

Contributing factors are food supplies for deer and rodents, which carry the ticks that spread the disease; weather (ticks have a two-year life span and flourish during warm, wet winters); and human activity, including prevention efforts and disease reporting.

Mid-May to early July is peak season, when about 90 percent of cases are transmitted, officials said. The season often causes a bull's-eye-raped rash near a tick bite. It can spread through the body if left untreated, causing arthritis, cardiac irregularities and neurological problems.

Reported cases have been increasing over the last decade, experts say, partly because of greater awareness of the disease.

"There's either a real increase or an increase in recognition, and it's probably a combination of both," said Dr. Steven E. Phillips, the immediate past president of the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society.

Another expert, Eddy Bresnitz, the state epidemiologist in New Jersey, where 3,372 cases were reported in 2005, cited the increased proximity of humans to wildlife. "There's more and more suburbia constructed close to parks and areas where there's increased vegetation," he said. "We

have more deer and more deer ticks."

Anyone who walks through leaf litter in the woods or on the edge of fields or lawns this time of year should check regularly for the nymphal stage of the tick, said Durand Fish, a professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Medicine. The size of a poppy seed, the tick spreads 95 percent of cases, Dr. Fish said.

Some prevention efforts appear to be working. In Hunterdon County in New Jersey, the rate of reported cases fell almost by half, to 268 per 100,000 residents in 2005 from 554 in 1995. For comparison, the rate of Lyme disease nationally in 2005 was 6.7 cases per 100,000 people, and it is 27.4 in the 12 Eastern and Midwestern states where it is most common, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hunterdon experienced an increase in the number of cases in the 1990's after the completion of a section of Interstate 78 in western New Jersey in 1968 led to housing construction and more people moving into deer habitat, said John W. Beckley, director of the County Health Department.

He said some of the recent decline in Lyme disease in the county might be attributable to public health efforts that included putting signs in county parks warning visitors to check for ticks; distributing fliers about the disease to doctors' and veterinarians' offices, garden centers and schools; and publishing a Lyme-O-Meter in a local newspaper announcing the level of tick danger each week.

Dr. Andrea Gaito, a rheumatologist in Basking Ridge, N.J., in neighboring Somerset County, said in mid-

May that she was already seeing three to four new cases of the disease each week.

"There's more awareness of what brings people in, and that's the good news," she said. "It makes early diagnosis and treatment so much better." As she said, she is seeing fewer cases of chronic Lyme disease, which estimates account for 15 to 20 percent of cases.

Kim Uffleman, 49, of Rutherford, N.J., suffers from the chronic form of the disease, which she contracted years ago. Nine months after being bitten by a tick, she was hospitalized and it was two years before she was diagnosed. Uffleman, who used to run a business, could leave her home without help. It took her two years, she said, to find a doctor who could give her a clear diagnosis, even though she had been told she had it.

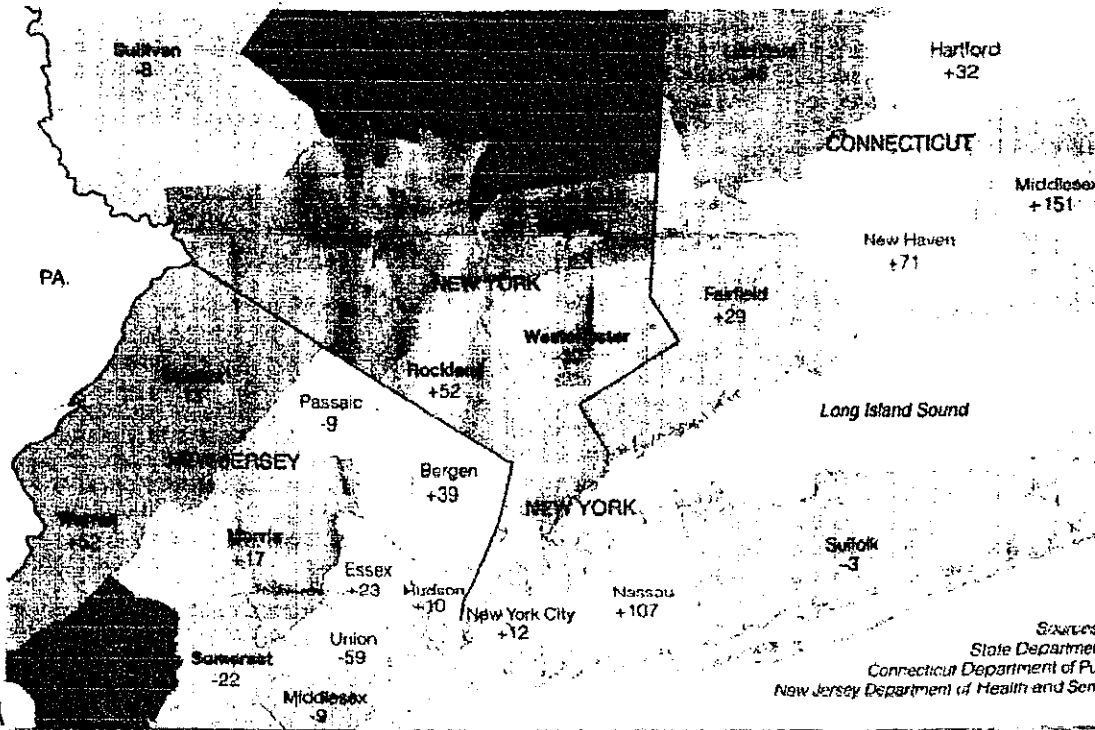
Continued on Page 7

## Where the Deer Tick Strikes

Reported cases of Lyme disease rose in the New York metropolitan region last year, but not everywhere. The map below shows the incidence of cases reported per 100,000 people in each county, along with the percentage increase or decrease over 2004.

Counties shown in boldface have had more than 27.4 cases per 100,000 people for the past three years. That is the average in the 12 states where the disease is most common, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

0 27.4 100 200 300



JUNE 14,  
2006

## INDEPENDENT EDITORIAL

The Independent  
est. - Traveler  
Watchman

### Spending Money On "Consultants"

It's important that the general public understand when town boards hire "impartial" consultants it is an oxymoron.

In most cases, town boards decide what they want to do and pay someone to rubber stamp it under the guise of some costly "study."

We've seen it in East Hampton, when the town board hired a consultant to study the airport — a consultant who had been on the payroll of Democratic Party boss David Gruber, an anti-airport fanatic. In essence, the board paid the consultant taxpayer money to say what he had already said in public for free.

Now, the Southold Town Board is playing the consultant shell game.

The town board wants to commission a traffic study. The study is, of course, a tool it will use in its ongoing dispute with Cross Sound Ferry, which not coincidentally commissioned a traffic study of its own.

At first, the board discussed a proposal made by one Patrick Cleary, but the entire board, including Councilman Tom Wickham, balked at his \$100,000 price tag.

Wickham then recommended another consultant, Steven Schneider. Actually, Wickham did more than just recommend.

At the June 6 board meeting, Wickham became an impassioned crusader for Schneider, lauding his references and then actually yelling when other board members wanted to postpone Schneider's hiring. "This board never acts!" he said.

This from a man who has been king of the "Let's wait two weeks" rule. Just take a look at how long it's taken to get a proposal for the new town animal shelter approved. And yet, Schneider's proposal was heard in under an hour, and, on the very same day, the board voted to retain his services, with Town Supervisor Scott Russell casting the only negative vote.

Why was Wickham so motivated? He said it was because it was essential to hire Schneider before the upcoming July Fourth weekend, probably the busiest days of the year. But perhaps it was because he knew The Traveler-Watchman, the next day, would break the story that Schneider had once been paid by The Southold Citizens For Safe Roads, the group bent on destroying Cross Sound Ferry. Schneider, for his part, claimed that he was more than capable of conducting an impartial investigation and said "prayers" had guided him to leading an "honest" life. That's nice.

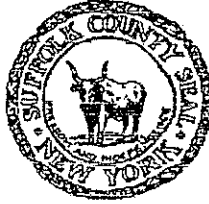
The taxpayers, however, are also praying — that the town will stop wasting money on "impartial" consultants who will tell the board exactly what it wants to hear.

What were Schneider's conclusions when he was on the SCSR payroll? He said he didn't remember — spoken like a true consultant. We can guess — his "study" told SCSR exactly what the group wanted to hear.

Here's the bottom line. Even if he produces a totally objective study, the town government has a responsibility to remain completely impartial and objective. Just the appearance of impropriety is enough to taint the results of the study, at least, in the minds of tax-paying constituents — and the CSF lawyers. Although Schneider says he no longer has ties with the Southold Citizens for Safe Roads, the fact that he once worked for them should have been reason enough to automatically disqualify him from the running.

Schneider, by the way, said the first two stages of his study would cost \$80,000, and added that additional costs were possible. In other words, the final figure will approach Cleary's estimate, which Wickham, and the rest of the board, found too high. The bet here is they'll have no problem cutting a check for the same amount to Schneider.

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

H. Lee Dennison Building  
100 Veterans Memorial Highway  
P.O. Box 6100  
Hauppauge New York 11788-0099

Steve Levy  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Paul Sabatino II  
CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY  
EXECUTIVE  
(631) 853-4014  
(631) 853-4714

January 30, 2004

Richard Johannesen, Esq., Chairman  
Suffolk County Ethics Commission  
c/o County Department of Law  
H. Lee Dennison Executive Office Building  
100 Veterans Memorial Highway  
P.O. Box 6100  
Hauppauge NY 11788-0099

Re: Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management  
(Request for an Opinion from the Suffolk County Ethics Commission)

Dear Rich:

Enclosed is a letter with attachments that I received from Robert F. McAlevey III, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, with regard to the captioned matter. I am forwarding it to you for handling by the Suffolk County Ethics Commission.

Very truly yours,

*Paul Sabatino II* 1/31/2004

Paul Sabatino II  
Chief Deputy County Executive

PS:nt  
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Robert F. McAlevey III  
P.O. Box 300  
Hampton Bays NY 11946

P.O.Box 300,  
Hampton Bays,  
New York 11946

January 28, 2004

Dear Mr. Sabatino,

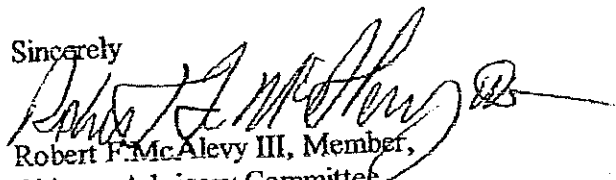
As you suggested during our telephone conversation of Jan. 27th, I submit the following information concerning a possible ethics problem.

The January 12, 2004 letter of Linda Mermelstein (attached) describes the mission of the TAC: to objectively review the scientific progress of the Program, and to provide technical guidance. Voting TAC members must assure fairness and impartiality, to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

Other statements of inappropriate behavior of TAC members include: representation of an advocacy group with a stated pre-determined mission to effect a specific management outcome when the technical elements of the management options are a topic of TAC evaluation.

Mr. Craig Kessler has been an active member of the TAC and CAC from their inception. Mr. Kessler and/or the organization he represents (Ducks Unlimited) has been awarded a large contract to do work for the subject Program. A group with no connections to the Program submitted a competing proposal that was not funded.

Sincerely

  
Robert F. McAlevy III, Member,  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
(631-728-3189)

P.S. As these facts speak for themselves  
I request my name not be associated  
with this matter.

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



Steve Levy  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Linda Mermelstein, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting COMMISSIONER

January 12, 2004

Debra O'Kane  
Amie Hamlin  
North Fork Environmental Council, Inc.  
P.O. Box 799  
Mattituck NY 11952

Dear Ms. O'Kane and Ms. Hamlin:

Subject: Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management  
Long Term Plan Steering Committee Approval CAC Designated  
Representative on Technical Advisory Committee

Thank you for your letter dated November 17, 2003. In that letter, you requested that the Steering Committee reconsider its determination that Kevin McAllister (the Peconic BayKeeper) is not an appropriate representative of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to vote on behalf of the CAC on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Your request will be considered by the Steering Committee at its next meeting. We are currently in the process of identifying new representatives to the Steering Committee, from the Offices of the Suffolk County Executive and the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature. The meeting date is expected to be set shortly.

Please be advised that I stand behind the points raised in my October 20, 2003 letter to you (attached). We have made every effort to make all committee meetings, and the entire Management Plan process, open to the CAC and the public. However, the mission of the TAC is narrow: to objectively review the scientific progress of the program, and to provide technical guidance. Voting TAC members must assure fairness and impartiality, to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. In this regard, the SCDHS and the SCDPW have both recused themselves as voting members on the TAC.

I disagree with the presumption all CAC members would be disqualified as voting members of the TAC based merely on preconceived notions or opinions. Some critical factors to be considered in assessing appropriateness of membership on TAC were described in my October 20, 2003 letter to you. One factor is active litigation, seeking to alter program elements which are the subject of study. Another is representation of an advocacy group with a stated pre-determined mission to effect a specific management

➤ outcome, when the technical elements of the management options are a topic of TAC evaluation. For example, Mr. McAllister, individually and as the Peconic BayKeeper, has emphatically stated his mission to halt ditch maintenance on the presumption that it is harmful to marshes, before the evaluation of impacts of ditch maintenance (let alone management options) has occurred.

In addition to the above issue, I will recommend that the Steering Committee evaluate other fundamental alternatives. One alternative will be to eliminate cross-voting representation between the TAC and the CAC (i.e., no CAC voting members on the TAC). Note that the Peconic Estuary Program, under the National Estuary Program meeting, has kept voting memberships on the TAC and the CAC segregated.

Thank you for your continued valuable input and involvement in the process. As always, the Steering Committee will accept comments from the CAC and incorporate your recommendations in the program. As discussed above, all meetings are open to the public, and CAC representatives are always welcome to attend both Technical Advisory and Steering Committee meetings. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 853- 3005.

Very truly yours,



Linda Mermelstein, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting Commissioner

LM/lr  
Attachment

cc Hon. Steve Levy  
Hon. Joseph Caracappa  
Charles J. Barth, P.E.  
Theresa Elkowitz  
Rod McNeil  
Vito Minei, P.E.  
Walter Dawydiak, Jr., P.E.

Deborah Long, of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, be-  
est pond created at the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shu-  
Maxine Hicks for The New York Times

## Mixed Views of Ponds To Control Mosquitoes

By JOHN RATHER

**A**RTIFICIAL ponds, which sometimes spring up in new developments and golf courses, would start appearing in salt marsh tidal wetlands under a sweeping mosquito-control and pesticide-reduction plan that Suffolk County is considering.

The excavated ponds, up to 100 feet across, and systems of serpentine artificial creeks built to lead to them are part of a technique called open marsh water management that is central to the plan.

The plan is a result of a three-year study that cost the county about \$4 million. It involved a pilot project begun last year at the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley, where 11 ponds and connecting creeks were excavated in a 165-acre test area.

The county and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the refuge manager, said the pilot project showed that the county plan could control mosquitoes and reduce pesticide use.

But critics, including environmental groups, said that the study period was too short and that the plan lacked specifics.

Esposito, the executive director of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment in Farmingdale. She said the county had exaggerated the health benefits of mosquito control to advance the plan.

Sarah Newkirk, the coastal project director for the Long Island Chapter of the Nature Conservancy in Spring Harbor, said that the plan lacked details about mosquito control. "It is not really specific enough so the public can understand why the county makes a specific mosquito control decision," she said.

The plan needs permits from the State Department of Environmental Conservation, which may raise questions.

"The department is very interested in activities designed to restore tidal wetlands," said Peter A. S. the department's Long Island regional director. "And we would be concerned about activities that could degrade wetlands or cause losses of wetland vegetation."

Mr. Deering, the county's environmental affairs director, said each pond project would be individually reviewed before work started and that he welcomed debate on the plan.

"This was always expected to be a contentious issue," he said. "We moved forward to a productive dialogue."

The ponds and creeks would

res of wetlands material excavated to fill the ponds and creeks would to fill in ditches formerly mosquito control.

Officials would assess 9,000 or future open-marsh water. Ditches on the remaining 10 acres would be allowed to naturally.

of the remaining wetlands the South Shore and along the C Bays, some are along Long Sound, and some are in each of the 10 towns.

Levy, the Suffolk County executive, and county health and environmental officials say that the open-marsh approach will reduce mosquito breeding habitat for larvae and fish in wetlands where mosquitoes breed. Michael Deering, the county's director of environmental affairs, said the plan met the goal of using progressive methods to reduce the use of chemicals to improve wetland habitats. Ponds identified as breeding grounds would be excavated for fish, which fish, including minnow-killifish, would reach by swimming up the artificial creeks built at the same time.

Levy went according to expectations, the fish would gobble up mosquito larvae, reducing the need for pesticides and spraying for adult mosquitoes. The county said that it would also reduce the risks to the public of mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus and the recently seen Eastern equine encephalitis.

The county and others involved in the studies for the plan said the ponds and creeks would also provide habitat for ducks, migratory birds and other wildlife.

Ralph Kessler, the manager of conservation programs for Ducks Unlimited in Stony Brook, said what he had seen the success of the Wertheim project's pilot project, which the county paid the group to assist in. He cited successes in marshlands in New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Ducks Unlimited protects habitats for wildfowl.

But the proposal, which is at the heart of a long-term plan that would determine far into the future how the county battles mosquitoes and manages wetlands, is encountering opposition questioning whether the open-marsh technique will unleash a chain of events that will harm or destroy wetlands in the name of mosquito and disease control.

The county is proposing to manage the wetlands to reduce the mosquito population when it should be managing them to enhance their value and function," said Adrienne

resist  
dig in wetlands.

place a ditching system, dating to the 1930's, designed to drain wetlands of standing water where mosquitoes breed. Though many of the 750 miles of ditches have deteriorated, they are blamed for drying out wetlands and harming marine life and wildlife.

Mr. Levy has ordered an end to ditching, and Kevin McAllister, the president of Paconic Baykeeper in Riverhead, said the county was right to do so.

"But instead of digging ditches are we now going to dig holes of the same magnitude?" he said. "You will be removing biomass that took centuries to develop, and in carving out these large ponds, that biomass will be forever lost and replaced by standing water."

Mr. McAllister, a longtime critic of the county's mosquito-control programs and chemicals used in them, said the lost vegetation also decreased a wetland's ability to filter pollutants.

The plan was made public by the county in November and is now before the Council on Environmental Quality, a panel within the county's Planning Department. If the council accepts the environmental study, the plan will go to the County Legislature.

At a council session in Hauppauge on Dec. 8, Councilman John Potente showed aerial photographs that he said demonstrated the damage ponds can cause in wetlands.

Dr. Potente, a dentist from Hauppauge and a board member of the Long Island Botanical Society, said that the Suffolk plan would permit the use of heavy equipment to excavate and remove undisturbed wetlands. "Go in, find out where the mosquitoes are, and go to town," he said describing what would happen.

Some other council members also voiced reservations about the plan.

Some critics of open-marsh water management say adding ponds and creeks to wetlands already at risk from rising sea levels because of global warming makes no sense.

But Mr. Kessler, of Ducks Unlimited, said the county had to act in the present. "In another 75 years, the sea might rise three centimeters," he said. "You'll be dead, I'll be dead and everyone on Long Island will be dead. They are charged with managing the marsh now."

June 29, 2006

To the Suffolk County Legislature; *Council on Environmental Quality*

I am communicating with you today on the issue of general mosquito control in Suffolk County salt marshes. I contact you both as a citizen of the County and as retired Director of the Quogue Wildlife Refuge.

I am concerned that the Suffolk County Vector Control is disregarding pesticide manufacturers' warnings about toxicity.

I am concerned about the proposed dredging of openings in the upper marsh itself, destroying the multiple layers of ancient peat, salt marsh grasses and ribbed mussels that are the basis of the natural filtration system of the marsh.

I am concerned about damage to the marsh and upland areas that must be crossed to gain access to the target area of dredging.

I am concerned about the need for all of us to see and remember the great difference between nuisance control of mosquitoes and control of mosquitoes for health concerns.

I am concerned that the linking of West Nile Virus to the opening of holes in the saltwater marsh ignores the fact that it is the freshwater mosquitoes which are the known vector for West Nile.

I am concerned that Suffolk County may spend millions of taxpayer dollars for a mosquito control plan that is flawed from the start as is shown by the fact that some municipalities which have already tried Open Marsh Water Management have elected to discontinue it.

Let me suggest that we all really truly take a look at the hard facts about a saltmarsh system, that, yes, it does include mosquitoes, but it is also a naturally proven system where effective control occurs without the intrusion of humankind. Please do not allow dredging of destructive holes in the upper marsh, and please do not allow the continued use of pesticides.

  
Georgeanne Spates

11115 Main Bayview Road  
Southold, NY 11971



# Eastern Long Island Audubon Society, Inc.

Formerly Moriches Bay Audubon Society established 1972  
PO Box 206, East Quogue, NY 11942-0206  
[easternlongislandaudubon.homestead.com](http://easternlongislandaudubon.homestead.com)

June 29, 2006

Dear DGEIS Public Hearing Attendees,

We are here to express our concerns and dismay about Suffolk County Vector Control's (and Department of Health's) long-term salt marsh management "restoration" plans. This project is also known as Open Marsh Water Management (OMWM). This project is certainly not a restoration plan but a total degradation marsh plan that will dramatically increase salt water levels into the high marsh, which, in turn, will destroy nesting populations of rare and declining species of salt marsh birds, destroy rare plants and their habitats, and increase water levels into adjoining forests and property owners lands. Salt marshes are one of the first natural communities to hold back storm and tidal surges. With recently proven rapid rises in sea level, salt marshes are invaluable ecosystems to mitigate rising water levels. Any interference in these natural marsh communities will have devastating impact on sea level rise onto the landmass of Long Island, where people have property and homes. Digging in the marshes, taking away preexisting high marshland mass, and creating new channels and artificial creeks does not increase biodiversity. To the contrary, it destroys it by eliminating all the upper marsh plants and birds that nest and forage there. Marshes also act as a filtering agent for pollutants that wash off of the land. Less marsh, which is what OMWM proposes, means less filtering of pollutants, and an immediate increase of pollution going into the bays will occur.

**Eastern Long Island Audubon Society very strongly opposes the OMWM project and sees it as a further reduction and degradation of a valuable and so important ecological community. Please do not endorse the devastating OMWM project.**

**Eastern Long Island Audubon Society  
Board of Directors**

Eileen Schwinn  
Al Scherzer  
Beth Gustin  
Larry Sturm  
Shirley Morrison

Mike Marino  
Robert Murray  
Dan Wilson  
Ridgie Barnett

John McNeil  
Evelyn Voulgarelis  
Mary Laura Lamont  
Robert Adamo

Hello. My name is Nicole Maher. I am the Wetlands Specialist with the Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy applauds the County on the development of a long-term plan that embraces the progressive notion that vector control should be consistent with ecological values. The plan's objectives are good: To reduce the use of chemicals for controlling mosquitoes and to restore marsh health. However, the plan still requires some revision:

- First, the plan should clarify the applicability of thresholds and criteria used to initiate the spraying of adulticide. The plan should state explicitly that mosquito trap criteria will be used whenever possible, and that Suffolk County Vector Control will make an effort to collect quantitative data at all likely locations before spraying;
- Second, the composition of the Wetlands Screening Committee which is proposed by the plan should be expanded to include 4 representatives of environmental nonprofit organizations, and representatives from all 3 estuary programs sitting at all times. In addition, we recommend that the Committee be given written notice of **all** projects, **regardless** of size, and the **discretion** to concentrate on the projects that are of real concern. In order to promote a science-based conservation program, the committee should be charged with evaluating past and ongoing studies as well as the study design and monitoring protocols of proposed projects in order to determine their effectiveness in terms of both ecological restoration and mosquito control. It is critical that we learn from our successes and failures in order to guide the development of new projects. Failure to do so will perpetuate past mistakes;
- And third, the county's education and outreach program is a good start, but we believe that it could be even more proactive. Public awareness and behavior modification are important elements of both general mosquito management and mosquito-borne disease control. The plan acknowledges that people who are informed about mosquito biology and control measures are more likely to mosquito-proof their homes. Standing water in people's yards is a breeding ground for freshwater mosquitoes, which are – in fact – much more potent vectors for disease than are salt marsh mosquitoes

In addition to these revisions, we urge the County to adopt a more holistic approach, overall. The County rightly envisions a regional, comprehensive marsh recovery approach, when it states – and I quote – “It is anticipated that the Wetlands Screening Committee will develop a County-wide, comprehensive marsh management plan...” We applaud the County on this vision, but believe that it should go even further and create a Wetlands Recovery Project. This Project would set objectives for acquisition, restoration and enhancement of coastal wetlands and secure funding from state, federal, local or private sectors in order to implement the objectives. We envision a science-based, collaborative effort involving multiple stakeholders, which is guided by established scientific principles setting a high bar for wetlands health. The County should evaluate and implement this option immediately; this enterprise would be an ideal flagship project of the new Department of Energy and Environment.

Finally, we look forward to working with the County to implement a comprehensive regional wetlands management plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

## AUDUBON COMMENTS ON THE SUFFOLK COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL & WETLANDS MANAGEMENT LONG TERM PLAN.-

- Good evening and thank you for allowing me to present my remarks before this Council.

- My name is Lawrence A. Merryman and I am the Conservation Chair and Past President of the Great South Bay Audubon Society.

- In this matter I also represent the Long Island Audubon Council (LIAC) consisting of all 7 Long Island Chapters comprising approximately 7,000 members. These chapters are: South Shore, Four Harbors, North Shore, Huntington, Eastern Long Island, North Fork & Great South Bay Audubon Societies. These chapters have unanimously approved their opposition to Suffolk County's Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan for the following reasons:

- Concerning that part of the plan that includes the Open Marsh Water Management, or OMWM aspect of digging ponds and creeks in the high marsh areas of our salt water wetlands - we cannot accept this OMWM ponding procedure as there exists no scientific evidence or support that it restores wetlands and controls salt marsh mosquito populations. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, I was given a tour of two areas of the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge that have been the subject of the experimental OMWM ponding. There was no significant amount of mosquitoes present in the salt marsh that day; however, this may have been because it was a windy day. In addition, it was pointed out to me that some areas that we traversed were not subject to OMWM techniques, but were normal non treated high marsh areas, and there were also no significant mosquitoes present in these non OMWM treated areas. All of the evidence of mosquito reduction presented appeared to be anecdotal - not scientific. In the opinion of the Long Island Audubon Council, the OMWM ponding procedures do not promote

restoration, but further disturbance to the marsh. One of the points made by the proponents of OMWM ponds is that the ponds encourage avian species diversity. However, in order to prevent wading birds from feeding on the ponds' killy fish, these ponds are dug deeply enough to discourage use by wading birds. The advocates of OMWM ponding also indicate that the spoil from the ponds that were recently dug has been used to fill the existing grid ditches that were created many years ago in a futile attempt to drain the marshes and reduce mosquito populations. It was further indicated that by filling these old grid ditches, the total amount of high marsh taken by digging the ponds and creeks has been replaced. I doubt if that can be substantiated, as the new ponds, enlarged creeks and the connector channels to the ponds appeared to be a substantial area.

-We have been assured that before any OMWM work will be done in Suffolk County Wetlands, a Screening Committee will undertake a review of the project and vote on its feasibility. However, the content of the Screening Committee appears to be heavily weighted towards governmental, rather than conservationist participation. In addition, the Screening Committee will only have to pass on OMWM designs over 15 acres. This loophole can allow for many abuses.

- I would also like to point out to the Council that Audubon New York, representing approximately 50,000 members has passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, controversial alternative methods of vector control that are under consideration in Suffolk County Vector Control Plan, such as Open Marsh Water Management which advocates the digging of ponds in salt marshes, have not been proven effective: and RESOLVED, that Audubon New York supports the exploration of alternative means of establishing disease vector control and response practices that are proven

experimenting with and reducing our salt water wetlands. The collective Audubon Societies of Long Island believe that the OMWM techniques proposed in the Long Term Plan are unproven at best, and damaging at worst.

- Thank you for your time and patience.

*Lawrence A. Merryman - June 29, 2006*

Lawrence A. Merryman – Conservation Chair & Past President,  
Great South Bay Audubon Society; also representing the Long  
Island Audubon Council.

DATE: July 6, 2006**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print) Bob McAlenyADDRESS P.O. Box 300  
Hempstead Harbor, N.Y. 11946PHONE 631-7281-3189REPRESENTING CAC / SCL SYMBY, ETC.

INTRO NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

03-0180, 01/02/00

DATE: July 6, 2006**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print) LAWRENCE A. MERRYMANADDRESS 38 SOUTH CARLL AVEBABYLON NY 11702PHONE 631-669-6473REPRESENTING LONG ISLAND AUDUBON COUNCILINTRO NO. SUFFOLK COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL + WETLANDSMANAGEMENT - LONG TERM PLAN**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**VECTOR CONTROL PLAN

03-0180, 01/02/00

1017

DATE:

7/6/06

**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print)

KASEY JACOBS

ADDRESS

225A Main St.

Farmingdale, NY 11735

PHONE

(516) 390-7150

REPRESENTING

Citizens Campaign for the Env.

INTRO NO.

**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

03-0180, 01/02/03

DATE:

7.6.06

1017

**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print)

JOSEPH BARONE

ADDRESS

62 GRANDVIEW DRIVE

PHONE

631-281-5467

REPRESENTING

SMITH PT. PROP. ASSOC.

INTRO NO.

**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

03-0180, 01/02/03

1023

DATE: 7-6-06**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print) MARY LEE  
ADDRESS 100 LOMBARDY DR  
SMITH POINT NY 11967  
PHONE ~~631~~ 631-281-0306  
REPRESENTING SMITH POINT BEACH PROPERTY OWNER  
INTRO NO. AS

**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

03-0100, 01/02/02

1024

DATE: 7.6.06**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print) Dominick Licata  
ADDRESS 63 Wm Floyd Pkwy  
Smith Point, NY  
PHONE 631-395-1708  
REPRESENTING Smith Point Beach Property Owner  
INTRO NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

03-0100, 01/02/02

DATE:

7-1-06

1031

**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print)

Renald M. Kenna

ADDRESS

263 Bay Walk  
Five Island Pass

PHONE

631-527-6317

REPRESENTING

Five Island Pass Property Owners

INTRO NO.

**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

03-0180, 01/02/00

DATE:

7/6/06

1034

**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print)

Kevin McAllister

ADDRESS

P.O. 893

PHONE

Quaque 11959  
1653-4804

REPRESENTING

Pleasant Baykeeper

INTRO NO.

Vector Control

**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

03-0180, 01/02/00

1040

DATE:

7/6/05

**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print)

John Lund

ADDRESS

8 Spindrift Walk / 33 Laminar Dr  
Davis Park NY / Sayville NY

PHONE

631-587-9292 587-9292-8724150

REPRESENTING

Davis Park Fire Island

INTRO NO.

**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

03-0180, 01/02/05

DATE:

July 6, 2006

**PUBLIC HEARING****REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Speakers are limited to five (5) minutes. Longer statements may be submitted in writing to the Clerk for distribution and shall become part of the permanent record if desired.

NAME (Please Print)

LAWRENCE A. MERRYMAN

ADDRESS

38 SOUTH CARLE AVE

PHONE

BABYLON NY 11702

REPRESENTING

631-669-6473

LONG ISLAND AUDUBON COUNCIL

INTRO NO.

SUFFOLK COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL + WETLANDS

MANAGEMENT - LONG TERM PLAN  
**HANDICAPPED SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

VECTOR CONTROL PLAN

03-0180, 01/02/05

COMMENTS ON DGEIS, SECTIONS 3& 4, VOL 3 SUBMITTED TO THE CEQ  
BY Robert McAlevy, July 6, 2006

COMMENTS ON pp 343-485

of the DGEIS  
PP 343-485 do not deal with the adverse effects of pesticide on finfish and shellfish eggs and larvae. (As published in "Scoping Comments" of GEIS, Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan by SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (Nov. 2002). Specifically pp 97, 98, and 99 showing that larvae and eggs are killed by SCVC adulticides at concentrations of 1 part adulticide per billion parts of water (PPB). All concentrations reported as benign in these pages, are greater than 1 PPB, and therefore should be considered lethal to shellfish and finfish eggs and larvae; and by extension, harmful to human embryos and fetuses.

COMMENTS ON pp 319-328

Fig. 3-10 indicates the Suffolk County Christmas "Bird Count" of the Category containing American Crow, Fish Crow and Cardinal exhibit a peak population (of almost 12,000) in 1985 and 1996, with a "double bottom" collapse of perhaps 50% in the intervening years. No rationale for this behaviour is presented. Without dealing with this pre-WNV behaviour, conclusions based on 1999-2005 decreases seem unwarranted. Indeed, the approximately 70% decrease between 1958 and 1968 is much greater than the WNV years declines. And again, no rationale is given. No conclusions concerning WNV-impact in 1999 and later appear valid without the rationales.

COMMENTS ON pp 311-317

The dead birds tested by NYSDOH before 1999 were all found to contain pesticides. This is true of birds tested from 1999 onward, when some contained WNV. To imply the cause-of-death of these later birds was WNV is unjustified. Why not pesticides?

COMMENTS ON pp 393-409

This section acknowledges that children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure because "children eat and drink higher quantities per body size than adults" and "biologic development in children is rapid and makes them susceptible to chemical insult." But it omits any discussion of developing human embryos and fetuses being far more susceptible than children because of their far greater growth rates.

Further, there is no mention of the fact that pesticides to which pregnant women are exposed are passed through the placenta into their developing babies. (See my March 9, 2006 submission to the CEQ)

I CONCLUDE THAT SECTIONS 3 AND 4 OF VOLUME 3 FAIL IN ESTIMATING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SCVC PESTICIDE SPRAYING ON THE NEXT GENERATION OF COUNTY RESIDENTS, ECOLOGY AND ESTUARINE FINFISH AND SHELLFISH, AND IS INCOMPLETE

Exposure to secondhand smoke puts an estimated 126 million people at risk of many health ills.

# 2nd-hand smoke worse than feared

■ Surgeon general details health risks to non-smokers and presses for education campaign

BY DELTHIA RICKS  
STAFF WRITER

There is no safe level of second-hand ~~create~~ smoke and exposure puts an estimated 126 million people at risk of heart disease, lung cancer and death, the U.S. surgeon general said yesterday in the first comprehensive report on passive smoking in 20 years.

"The health effects of second-hand smoke exposure are ~~more~~ ~~permeable~~ ~~than~~ ~~we~~ ~~previously~~ ~~thought~~," Surgeon General Richard Carmona said in Washington, where he called for a massive public education campaign. "It is a serious health hazard that can lead to disease and premature death in children and nonsmoking adults."

Information in the report comes as no surprise to anti-smoking advocates and physicians who say a renewed public health message was long overdue. In 1986, when the last

major report was issued, lung cancer was listed as a consequence of passive smoking.

Now, Carmona has expanded the list of serious medical conditions, ~~emphasizing dire consequences to babies and children~~. Foremost are increased risks of sudden infant death syndrome, respiratory conditions, ear infections and severe asthma.

Amy Di Leo, spokeswoman for the Long Island division of the American Cancer Society, said steps were taken earlier this year to clear the air locally.

"In January we got together with pediatricians to launch the Smoke-free Homes Initiative, working with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Tobacco Coalition of Long Island and the New York City Coalition for a Smoke-free City," Di Leo said. Through the initiative, letters were sent to pediatricians, asking them to educate parents about the dangers of smoking, especially indoors.

In Washington yesterday, Carmona underscored that nearly half of all nonsmoking Americans are still regularly exposed to secondhand smoke, which he said increases the risk of heart disease by as much as 30 per-

cent and the risk of lung cancer by another 30 percent.

Titled "The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke," the report is a compendium of scientific studies conducted in recent years demonstrating passive smoke's dangers. Scientists estimate that secondhand smoke contains more than 50 cancer-causing compounds. Even brief exposure, doctors say, can cause immediate harm.

"The report estimates that 53,000 people die [annually] as a result of illness that was somehow caused or worsened by secondhand smoke," said Dr. Neil Schlager, president of the American Lung Association in New York City.

Dr. Ron Davis, president of the American Medical Association, said his organization earlier this month adopted a new policy supporting smoking-cessation programs. The measure calls for eliminating smoking in public venues nationwide.

Three years ago, New York adopted a strict ban on public smoking, becoming at the time only the third state to restrict smoking in workplaces, restaurants and bars.

Would a compendium of studies on the dangers of pesticide exposure yield similar results? Was it done?

M<sup>2</sup> ALLEY  
B3

(July 6, 2006)

TIMES METRO MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2004

## Babies Are Larger After Ban On 2 Pesticides, Study Finds

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PÉRA

Pregnant women in upper Manhattan who were heavily exposed to two common insecticides had smaller babies than their neighbors, but recent restrictions on the two substances quickly lowered exposure and increased babies' size, according to a study being published today.

The researchers, led by a team from Columbia University, looked at babies born to women living in Harlem and Washington Heights, and divided them into four groups, based on the amounts of the pesticides chlorpyrifos and diazinon found in the mother's blood and umbilical cord blood. In the group with the highest levels, babies averaged 6.5 ounces lighter and one-third of an inch shorter than those in the group with no measurable amount of the insecticides in the blood.

The authors say that theirs is the first reported study to show a link between umbilical cord levels of these two pesticides and newborn size. They said it was also the first to document an improvement in birth size from curtailing use of a pesticide.

The study was part of a long-running project by Columbia researchers to gauge the effects of urban pollution on mothers and children. Dr. Frederica P. Perera, director of that effort, said the new results are significant because "birth weight is a very good predictor of later health and development of children, including physical development, mental development and school performance."

Chlorpyrifos and diazinon were once found in dozens of over-the-counter products and were heavily used by professional exterminators. The federal Environmental Protection Agency banned them from indoor use in stages, from 2000 to 2002, though both pesticides are still used in agriculture and are commonly found on produce.

The new study of 314 babies, being published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*, found that the ban had a notable effect on pesticide exposure and infants' size.

"It was very marked, and pretty immediate," said Dr. Robin M. Whyatt, the principal author of the study and an assistant professor at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia.

Among children born from 1998

to 2000, about one-third fell into the high-exposure group. But of those born in 2001 and 2002, just one out of 77 was in that group, Dr. Whyatt said. As pesticide levels fell, she said, infant size rose.

What made that change all the more remarkable, she said, is that while exposure to the pesticides dropped significantly in 2000, 2001 and 2002, it did not suddenly fall to zero. The E.P.A. began phasing out sales for residential use in 2000 for chlorpyrifos and 2001 for diazinon, and many stores voluntarily took the products off their shelves before they were required to do so.

But the total bans on indoor use did not take effect until the end of 2001 for chlorpyrifos and the end of 2002 for diazinon. Surveys by Columbia found that many stores in minority areas were still selling products with those pesticides as late as

### Gauging the effects of urban pollution on mothers and children.

mid-2003.

"Our data indicate that the exposure levels are still going down," Dr. Whyatt said. "We may continue to see added benefits of this ban over time."

Since 1997, Columbia's environmental health project has measured the effects of smoking, air pollution and other factors on women in upper Manhattan and their children. Dr. Perera said the researchers planned to track the children over many years, as they go through school, to see if exposure to pesticides and other pollutants can be shown to affect mental development and academic performance.

The women who participate, all of them black or of Dominican descent, were recruited from the prenatal clinics at Harlem Hospital and New York-Presbyterian Hospital. In the most recent study of pesticide levels, women were excluded for other factors. Like smoking or high exposure to cigarette smoke, that also affects birth weight and could skew the

# PERSPECTIVES

## BIOMEDICINE

### Do Airborne Particles Induce Heritable Mutations?

Jonathan M. Samet, David M. DeMarini, Heinrich V. Malling

Urban air is contaminated by gaseous and particulate emissions from a variety of sources. Emissions emanate from vehicles, industries, and power stations and also occur naturally. These emissions, as well as their atmospheric transformation products, damage ecological systems and adversely affect public health (1). Airborne particles have been a particular concern because epidemiological findings link current levels of airborne particulate pollutants to a growing list of adverse health effects (2). On page 1008 of this issue, Somers and colleagues (3) extend these observations beyond the effects of particulate matter on somatic cells. They present experimental evidence that airborne particles cause heritable genetic changes in the male mouse germline that can be passed on to the next generation.

By monitoring changes in the size of noncoding tandem-repeat DNA sequences, the authors show that offspring of mice exposed to an industrial location on western Lake Ontario have an increased rate of presumptive mutations and that these genetic changes are paternally derived. Their discovery that the mutation rate could be reduced by ~50% by cleansing the air with a high-efficiency-particulate-air (HEPA) filter suggests that particle-bound mutagens, or the particles themselves, are responsible for the observed heritable DNA changes. These new findings extend a series of investigations that began with the observation that herring gulls in Hamilton Harbor, Ontario, have a higher rate of minisatellite DNA changes than gulls in rural sites (3). A follow-up experiment with mice showed increased induction of DNA changes in the offspring of mice housed in a polluted location at the harbor compared with control animals housed in an unpolluted location (4).

The new findings imply a remarkable chain of events that begins with ambient particulate pollutants with mutagenic activity

and ends with these compounds (or the particles themselves) causing presumptive, heritable changes (see the figure). Evidence is available for some of the elements in this sequence of events, supporting its plausibility, but gaps in the sequence remain.

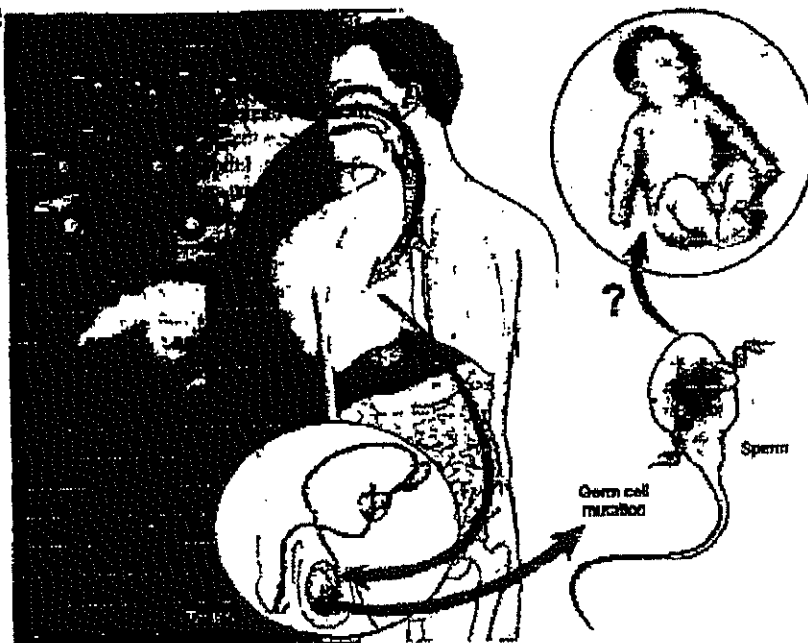
How are somatic cell mutations induced by airborne particles? We know that urban air pollution has mutagenic activity, that this activity is associated with airborne particles, and that air pollution is linked to lung cancer (5). Multiple chemicals, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), contained within particles or bound to their surfaces are mutagens or carcinogens. Small inhaled particles, which are cleaned from the air by a HEPA filter, penetrate deeply into the lungs, where adsorbed materials enter the blood and become distributed systemically. PAH exposure, whether from tobacco (5) or coal emissions (6), leads to the formation of lung tumors carrying unique sets of muta-

tions. Thus, inhaled combustion emissions and possibly polluted urban air generally induce mutations in somatic cells.

How might these inhaled pollutants induce genetic changes in male mouse germ cells? The inhaled toxicants would have to reach the bloodstream, be transported to the liver, possibly be metabolized to DNA-reactive species, be transported to the testes, and finally reach the spermatogonial stem cells. DNA damage could then be processed in the spermatogonial stem cells, resulting in tandem-repeat changes in mature sperm that can be transmitted to the first-generation offspring.

Considering the timing of the exposure and matings described by Somers *et al.* (2), premeiotic germ cells may be the sensitive target for DNA damage by air pollution, as they are for ionizing radiation (7). However, mechanisms for inducing changes in tandem-repeat DNA sequences lie outside the conventional model for the induction of mutations in coding genes and are poorly understood. Changes in these DNA sequences occur at rates much higher than predicted on the basis of mutation rates in coding genes (7).

PAHs bound to particles are a candidate group of chemicals that react with DNA after metabolic activation. PAHs are a compo-



Inhaled air particles and heritable mutations. Airborne particulate pollution is caused primarily by emissions from vehicles, industries, and power stations. Inhalation of airborne particles into the lungs leads to presumptive mutations in mouse male germ cells that can be passed on to the next generation.

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GROUP DEVELOPMENT

## PERSPECTIVES

ment of emissions from steel mills and vehicle exhaust, primary sources of air pollution in the contaminated Hamilton Harbor location, and they cause germ cell mutations in mammals. PAHs such as benzo(a)pyrene and dimethylbenzanthracene induce dominant lethal mutations in female mice when given by intraperitoneal injection (8), an exposure route of uncertain relevance to inhalation.

New evidence shows that PAHs associated with inhaled particles also may cause changes in humans during development. Pregnant women exposed to elevated levels of particulate matter and carcinogenic PAHs in ambient air have an increased risk of delivering a low-birth weight child compared to women with lower exposures (9). This risk is doubled if the exposure occurs during the first month of pregnancy (10). A link also exists between somatic mutation in newborns and transplacental exposure to common air pollutants, including polycyclic organics (11). Studies in humans indicate that elevated air pollution also may cause DNA damage in male germ cells (12). Evidence on cigarette smoking, another source of exposure to PAHs, suggests the possibility of smoking-associated germ cell mutations (13).

Despite the study's elegant experimental design, the findings by Sommers *et al.* (3) should be interpreted with caution. First, their tandem-repeat assay has been validated with only three chemical mutagens, and the transmission of these chemically induced changes to the second-generation offspring has not yet been examined (7). Second, the mutational mechanisms by which these tandem-repeat changes are induced are unclear. The mechanisms operating at some tandem-repeat sequences in mice are fundamentally different from those in humans (7). Nonetheless, the doubling dose for ionizing radiation-induced DNA changes in this assay is similar to that for coding genes in the definitive mouse spermatocyte locus assay for germ cell mutations, despite differences in the absolute mutation frequencies in these two assays.

Although air pollution has dropped substantially in recent decades in the United States and many other developed countries, epidemiological studies continue to show adverse health effects at current levels of particulate matter and ozone (1). Regulations to protect public health have been strengthened because of this and other evidence. The new work now adds another area of potential concern. Confirmation of the Sommers *et al.* find-

ings (2) would extend the adverse health effects of air pollution beyond effects on somatic cells in the exposed generation to germ cells—with the attendant implications for health risks to future generations.

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PLEASE ATTACH TO MY JUNE 29th SUBMISSION

Bob McHenry

10

THE INDEPENDENT — DEWEETER ADVERTISER (JUNE 28, 2006)

June 28, 2006

# More Ticks, More Lyme?

by Maria Quinn

Anecdotal reports from town employees and local physicians of a large, high-normal tick population this summer raise the possibility of more cases of Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses.

"I was talking to three of my workers who were working out at Shadmore the last two or three days, and they were pretty much covered with ticks," said Larry Penny, East Hampton Town's Director of Natural Resources, referring to the park in Montauk.

"Definitely I've seen many more cases this year than last," added Dr. Joseph Burrascano, a Lyme disease specialist with a practice in East Hampton.

He attributed the change to a number of factors, including the weather and an increase in the numbers of the lonestar tick, a more aggressive tick that also carries and transmits Lyme Disease. The wet, mild spring allowed the ticks and their host rodent populations to

grow faster than normal. "Ticks like moisture," Burrascano said.

Lonestar ticks, which started appearing in the area 10 years ago, are also becoming a significant problem, according to Burrascano. "They bite more ferociously; they can transmit the infection in as little as a few hours, rather than overnight, and they can contain a wide variety of germs, even more so than the deer tick," he explained.

Lyme disease, a bacterial infection most often transmitted through a deer tick bite, causes a flu-like sickness, but can be easily treated with antibiotics if caught early. Untreated, chronic cases can cause significant physical problems, and require a longer course and combinations of antibiotics.

Tick-borne co-infections that often accompany Lyme disease, including Babesia, Ehrlichia, Bartonella, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever "can be treated easily if they are caught early," Burrascano said.



As increase in the population of ticks could mean more cases of Lyme disease this season.

Preventative measures can significantly lower the risk of contracting Lyme. According to Burrascano, in the mid 1980s, the East End of Long Island had the highest case rate of the disease in the country. A group of local physicians put together a newsletter called TICK Talk with information about the tick-borne disease and prevention, thus that was mailed to all East Hampton and Southampton homes. "Since then, the rate of Lyme in our area, while still high, is much better than what it is, for example in Westchester, Pennsylvania, Maryland. It's actually pretty good," Burrascano said.

In order to prevent tick bites, the editor

national brochure Lyme Times recommends that lawns be mowed on a regular basis, brush and leaves be removed from around the house, and pets be inspected for ticks on a regular basis. The guide suggests wearing light-colored clothing and long pants when working outside. Clothing treated with permethrin, a synthetic repellent, is particularly effective at killing and warding off ticks, better than DEET-based repellents. Tick checks should be conducted after returning indoors.

Burrascano believes more preventative measures should be undertaken by local governments. He suggested a curriculum about Lyme be included in schools, and public service announcements be made about tick-related diseases, and informational flyers be included with hunting and other outdoor licensing packets.

Area towns do not conduct widespread spraying to kill ticks. "Wildspread pesticide use is not going to be acceptable," said Allyn Jackson, the director of Southampton's Park and Recreation Department, adding Southampton Town workers do limited spraying in only "highly concentrated areas where there is a lot of foot traffic."

Traffic maintenance on public lands is one of the main methods of tick prevention locally. Jim McMahon, the director of Public Works for Southold, said trails are kept eight feet wide and leaf and brush litter is removed "to reduce possible exposure" to ticks.

The deer that play host to the infected ticks should be a focus of town-sponsored prevention policies as well, Penny noted. "Until we start controlling the deer a little more effectively, we're always going to have a ton of ticks," he said.

AUDUBON COMMENTS ON THE SUFFOLK COUNTY  
MOSQUITO CONTROL & WETLANDS MANAGEMENT  
LONG TERM PLAN.-

- Good ~~evening~~<sup>MORNING</sup> and thank you for allowing me to present my remarks before this Council.

- My name is Lawrence A. Merryman and I am the Conservation Chair and Past President of the Great South Bay Audubon Society.

- In this matter I also represent the Long Island Audubon Council (LIAC) consisting of all 7 Long Island Chapters comprising approximately 7,000 members. These chapters are: South Shore, Four Harbors, North Shore, Huntington, Eastern Long Island, North Fork & Great South Bay Audubon Societies. These chapters have unanimously approved their opposition to Suffolk County's Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan for the following reasons:

- Concerning that part of the plan that includes the Open Marsh Water Management, or OMWM aspect of digging ponds and creeks in the high marsh areas of our salt water wetlands - we cannot accept this OMWM ponding procedure as there exists no scientific evidence or support that it restores wetlands and controls salt marsh mosquito populations. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, I was given a tour of two areas of the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge that have been the subject of the experimental OMWM ponding. There was no significant amount of mosquitoes present in the salt marsh that day; however, this may have been because it was a windy day. In addition, it was pointed out to me that some areas that we traversed were not subject to OMWM techniques, but were normal non treated high marsh areas, and there were also no significant mosquitoes present in these non OMWM treated areas. All of the evidence of mosquito reduction presented appeared to be anecdotal - not scientific. In the opinion of the Long Island Audubon Council, the OMWM ponding procedures do not promote

restoration, but further disturbance to the marsh. One of the points made by the proponents of OMWM ponds is that the ponds encourage avian species diversity. However, in order to prevent wading birds from feeding on the ponds' killy fish, these ponds are dug deeply enough to discourage use by wading birds. The advocates of OMWM ponding also indicate that the spoil from the ponds that were recently dug has been used to fill the existing grid ditches that were created many years ago in a futile attempt to drain the marshes and reduce mosquito populations. It was further indicated that by filling these old grid ditches, the total amount of high marsh taken by digging the ponds and creeks has been replaced. I doubt if that can be substantiated, as the new ponds, enlarged creeks and the connector channels to the ponds appeared to be a substantial area.

-We have been assured that before any OMWM work will be done in Suffolk County Wetlands, a Screening Committee will undertake a review of the project and vote on its feasibility. However, the content of the Screening Committee appears to be heavily weighted towards governmental, rather than conservationist participation. In addition, the Screening Committee will only have to pass on OMWM designs over 15 acres. This loophole can allow for many abuses.

- I would also like to point out to the Council that Audubon New York, representing approximately 50,000 members has passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, controversial alternative methods of vector control that are under consideration in Suffolk County Vector Control Plan, such as Open Marsh Water Management which advocates the digging of ponds in salt marshes, have not been proven effective; and RESOLVED, that Audubon New York supports the exploration of alternative means of establishing disease vector control and response practices that are proven

effective based on the best available science, and that will not negatively affect habitat or vulnerable bird populations.

- At a time of our heightened concern about the possibility of rising sea levels, high tides and storm surges that could occur from anticipated hurricane activity, it seems foolhardy to be experimenting with and reducing our salt water wetlands. This experimental project will dig up areas of salt marsh peat that have taken centuries to develop and therefore, the collective Audubon Societies of Long Island believe that the OMWM techniques proposed in the Long Term Plan are unproven at best, and damaging at worst.

- Thank you for your time and patience.

*Lawrence A. Merryman*

Lawrence A. Merryman – Conservation Chair & Past President,  
Great South Bay Audubon Society; also representing the Long  
Island Audubon Council.

*July 6, 2006*

**Suffolk County Vector Control DGEIS and Long Term Plan Public Hearing****July 6, 2006****10:00AM**

Hi. My name is Kasey Jacobs. I'm with Citizens Campaign for the Environment. My statement will be brief since we testified last week and will also be submitting our written comments before the end of the comment period.

Our largest concern with the Long-Term plan is the continuing inability to properly distinguish between nuisance control and health-based control. The two terms should not be considered interchangeable; it's very hazardous to do so. Spraying of adulticides should only be conducted for disease control and even then in a limited, targeted fashion.

Also, the thresholds for spraying adulticides are ambiguous. The Plan states that the criteria for a spray include ~25 mosquitoes caught in the NJ light trap, ~100 in the CDC light traps, and 5+ mosquito landings/minute. The Plan does NOT state if this refers to all mosquitoes or mosquitoes of concern and often uses vague language to state the criteria.

The risk assessment in the DGEIS cites the use of a Caged Fish Study. This study appears to be adequate for larvicides, however, in regards to adulticides it's seriously lacking and shouldn't be considered when discussing and evaluating the potential impacts of adulticides on marsh ecology. Only one site, John's Neck, was used for the evaluation along with the control site and was confounded by low dissolved oxygen. This small sample does not hold up to rigorous scientific scrutiny and cannot be used to support any specific conclusions. In addition, long-term lethal or sub-lethal effects cannot be detected over a short period of time, which was the case in this study since only four days were used.

Along the same lines, when discussing the risks involved with ditches and other marsh modifications, the 2005 SCERP research should be included since it used numerous Long Island marshes to analyze nutrient runoff, particularly Nitrogen, and also fecal coliform

for open ditches and closed ditches. It affirms, "Mosquito ditches contained high levels of nitrogen ( $> 100\mu\text{M}$ ) and fecal coliform bacteria ( $> 2,000$  per 100 mL). The draining of mosquito ditches in Flanders Bay likely accounts for a flux of  $> 1,200$  moles of N per day, and thus represents  $\sim 25\%$  of the N load to the southern portion of the bay and nearly 10% of the N load to the entire bay...mosquito ditches are a source of N and fecal coliform bacteria which can degrade water quality in estuaries such as Flanders Bay. Since the plugging of mosquito ditches can effectively eliminate ditch flow, such a practice seems warranted in ecosystems such as the western Peconic Estuary where the primary goal of the estuary's Comprehensive Management Plan is to minimize N loads to this region".

The Open Marsh Water Management may have ~~equivalent~~ ~~problems~~ and others; ~~and~~ since it's experimental at this time it's unclear and there should not be used as marsh "restoration" <sup>but</sup> using OMWM techniques and the ~~term~~ <sup>term</sup> "restoration" ~~for that~~ is inaccurate and misleading.

Thank You.

# Smith Point Beach Property Owners Association, Inc.

## Mission Statement



Our mission is to empower each property owner, through a shared decision making process, with the knowledge and information necessary to plan a progressive quality lifestyle in their community.

As the gateway to the Fire Island National Seashore, we will strive to preserve and protect the aesthetic environment and its inhabitants. By participating in coastal planning and being a watchdog for this community, we will embrace quality recreational programs without compromising quality of life or public safety.

# Smith Point Beach Property Owners Association, Inc.

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James Cutro Allison Samiento Florence Marchionni J. Roman/D. Licata  
Honorary President Vice President Secretary Treasurer

## Membership Application

*The annual membership fee is \$48.00, due by January 31st. You may send it bi-annually. Please send the first payment by January 31st, and the second payment by June 30th if that is more convenient for you.*

*Please make check payable to Smith Point Beach Property Owners Association, Inc. and send to the address listed above.*

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **From** \_\_\_\_\_ **To** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would, or \_\_\_\_\_ I would not, like my number to be published on a professional call list for inclement weather, cancellations, and Association News.

**Payment** \_\_\_\_\_ **check** \_\_\_\_\_ **cash** \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggestions/Requests ( Community needs, etc.- seasonal or annual )**

Please continue suggestion on other side of paper if necessary.

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